GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1169
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
TUBERCULOSIS IN MINERS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of miners suffering from Tuberculosis in the Country;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any measures to save the lives of those miners; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a): The Directorate General of Mines Safety Dhanbad receives information about occurrence of casesof notified diseases in mines under Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952. Tuberculosis as such is not a notified disease under the said Act. Directorate Generalof Mines Safety do not maintain the figures of miners suffering from Tuberculosis.

(b) & (c): The Mines Rules, 1955 provide measures forearly detection and control of notifed diseases by periodic medical examination once in every five years and by health surveillance of the workers exposed to dust hazards.

The Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 also provide for the following control measures at the workplace:-

(a) Wet drilling and use of dust extractors in metal mines.

(b) Wet cutting and use of dust extractors in coal mines.

(c) Periodic monitoring of work Envioronment for:-

(i) Measures to keep respirable dust within permissible limit,

(ii) Monitoring of airborne dust through regular sampling and analysis,

(iii) Adopting of control measures where the permissible limits is exceeded,

(iv) Remote operation or job rotation where it is technically not feasible to reduce dust concentration within permissible limit,

(v) Use of protective equipment (dust respirator) where enforcement of job rotation/remote operations is not feasible.